



St Ambrose High School

**Child Protection,
Safeguarding
&
Prevent Policy**

1. Rationale

St Ambrose High School is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and protection of all children and young people in its care. We recognise our statutory responsibility to safeguard pupils from abuse, neglect and harm, and to work in partnership with families and external agencies to promote children's welfare.

This policy is informed by North Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Procedures, the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, and the principles of GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child).

2. Policy Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Children and young people are protected from harm, abuse and neglect
- All staff understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection
- Concerns are identified, recorded and reported promptly and appropriately
- The school works effectively with partners to support children and families
- A culture of safeguarding, vigilance and care is embedded across the school community

3. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy operates within the context of:

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland
- GIRFEC National Practice Model
- North Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Procedures
- How Good Is Our School? (HGIOS 4)

4. Definition of Child Protection

Child protection refers to the activity undertaken to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

Abuse may be:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

Safeguarding also includes protecting children from harm linked to:

- Domestic abuse
- Substance misuse
- Mental health concerns
- Online safety and exploitation
- Child sexual exploitation
- Radicalisation
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for child protection within the school and will:

- Ensure compliance with NLC Child Protection Procedures
- Ensure staff are trained and confident in child protection procedures
- Ensure concerns are acted upon promptly and appropriately
- Liaise with Social Work, Police and other agencies
- Ensure secure record keeping

Child Protection Co-ordinator (CPC)

The Head Teacher will appoint a Child Protection Co-ordinator who will:

- Act as the first point of contact for child protection concerns
- Support staff in responding to concerns
- Ensure concerns are recorded on SEEMiS / NLC systems
- Participate in case conferences and multi-agency meetings
- Ensure child protection plans are shared on a need-to-know basis

All Staff

All staff (including supply staff, support staff, volunteers and partners) must:

- Be familiar with this policy and NLC procedures
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Be vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect
- Report all concerns immediately to the CPC or Head Teacher
- Record concerns factually and promptly
- Never promise confidentiality to a child

6. Recognising Concerns

Staff should be alert to:

- Changes in behaviour, attendance or presentation
- Unexplained injuries
- Disclosure by a child or young person
- Concerning online behaviour
- Patterns of neglect or unmet needs

A concern does not require proof — professional concern is sufficient to act.

7. Responding to a Disclosure

If a child discloses information:

- Listen calmly and attentively
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing
- Do not ask leading questions
- Do not investigate
- Explain that information must be shared to keep them safe
- Report the concern immediately to the CPC or Head Teacher

8. Recording and Reporting Concerns

All concerns must be:

- Recorded clearly, factually and promptly
- Dated, timed and signed
- Logged in line with NLC recording procedures
- Shared only with appropriate staff

The CPC or Head Teacher will determine next steps, which may include:

- Monitoring and support
- Consultation with Social Work
- Referral to Social Work or Police
- Participation in Child Protection Case Conferences

9. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis and in line with:

- Data Protection legislation
- NLC Child Protection guidance

The welfare of the child is paramount and may override confidentiality where necessary.

10. Supporting Children and Young People

St Ambrose High School will:

- Provide appropriate pastoral support
- Work in partnership with families where appropriate
- Ensure children subject to Child Protection Plans are supported in school
- Monitor wellbeing, attendance and attainment
- Use GIRFEC wellbeing indicators (SHANARRI)

11. Training and Awareness

- All staff will receive regular child protection training in line with NLC requirements
- New staff will receive child protection induction
- Pupils will receive age-appropriate learning on safeguarding, relationships and online safety

12. Safer Recruitment

The school follows North Lanarkshire Council Safer Recruitment procedures, including:

- PVG membership
- Appropriate references
- Clear role descriptions

13. Prevent Duty in Scottish Schools

In Scotland, the Prevent duty is part of the UK Government's broader counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, and aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Below that lies the 4 Ps

Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks

Protect: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack

Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

14. Role and Responsibilities of Schools under Prevent

Scottish schools have a statutory duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard” to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This duty is integrated into existing safeguarding responsibilities and is not intended to create new functions. The Child Protection Coordinator is responsible for PREVENT in their establishment. For St Ambrose High School, the Child Protection Coordinator responsible for PREVENT is Mr A McKune (DHT), if unavailable Mrs K Keeney (HT) or Mr McMullen (DHT)

Schools must ensure staff understand the risks of radicalisation and are equipped to respond appropriately. All education staff are required to complete the mandatory PREVENT training every two years via the Learn NL portal.

Should a PREVENT Concern arise, referrals can be made to PreventReferrals@scotland.police.uk

The PREVENT referral form is available on the North Lanarkshire Child Protection Share Point or [National Prevent referral form](#)

When referring please also include the Child Protection Development Officer Lynn Kinstrie kinstrieL@northlan.gov.uk and Chief Officer (Legal & Democratic) Rachel Blair blairr@northlan.gov.uk

Further details can be found here [Counter Terrorism and Keeping Safe | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

[Protecting people susceptible to radicalisation](#)

[The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#) - Guidance for those working in education settings with safeguarding responsibilities.

[Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting](#) – Guidance to help education settings consider indicators of risk and decide what response is appropriate and proportionate.

Full PREVENT Guidance is available at [Prevent duty guidance: for Scotland \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

15. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes to legislation or NLC guidance.

16. Child Protection and Safe Guarding Key Contacts

- Head Teacher: Mrs K Keeney
- Child Protection Co-ordinator: Mr A McKune DHT
- Depute CPC: Mr J McMullen DHT & K Keeney (HT)
- NLC Social Work (Out of Hours): 0800 121 4114
- Police Scotland: 101 / 999 in emergency

Date approved: 08/05/2026

Date for review: